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Greco-Turkish Accord

THE drawing together of Turkish and Grecian views on the future of Cyprus under self-government is a hopeful augury for eventual settlement of a long standing problem in the Eastern Mediterranean. The premiers of both countries and their foreign ministers met this week at Zurich, where an agreement was initialled by both countries. The proposed settlement is being taken to London, where it is assured of the earnest attention of a British government which has been trying for years to implement a working basis for Cypriot self-government.

While it is too early to learn British reaction to the agreement proposed, the mere fact that Turkish and Grecian leaders have found some common basis for accord is an amelioration of a long tense situation. The suggested settlement proposes the creation of a republic of Cyprus, with a Grecian Cypriot as president and a Turkish Cypriot as vice-president, and the formation of a single legislature. Under the reported terms, Great Britain would retain its land, sea and air bases on the island under treaty with the future republic. On the face of it, this would seem to fulfill the essential conditions of both independence and security if the accord is genuine.

For a considerable period Britain has been trying actively to draw both sides of the dispute together under some formula which would guarantee the independence and self-government of Cyprus through legislative and democratic means. Both Greek and Turkish inhabitation of Cyprus with long-established history made the issue difficult. Time after time concurrence was won from one side or the other on proposals designed to lead towards a gradual handing over of control. The Zurich meeting is the aftermath of a series of impasses, and encouraging because it resulted from companion steps taken by Turkey and Greece themselves. Cypriot acceptance of any terms agreed upon finally might not be automatic, but it is strongly inferred.

The Penalty of Narrow Vision

ONE does not need to have reached even early middle age to be able to remember Saanich as a municipality with a partially built-up inner area surrounded by wide stretches of open ground, some of it farmed, much of it wild and forest covered, with a few houses dotted here and there. That was Saanich only a very few years ago, an essentially rural municipality in the greater part of its large area.

Now the spectre of over-development already is peering over the council's shoulder. In near desperation to preserve breathing space for the people moving into the municipality not by hundreds but by thousands (nearly 900 new homes were built last year) the council is casting around for land to buy at today's inflated prices. This land is needed if residents of the future and even the present are to have the bare minimum of park and playground space—far less than the minimum according to modern standards of residential development.

Earlier councils could have had for a song far more land than Saanich would ever be likely to need for park use—need not in fact have bought land at all, since in less prosperous times the municipality owned much of it. In their zeal to get every possible inch of property onto the improvement tax roll councils of previous years encouraged maximum housing development apparently without stopping to think that a municipality the size of Saanich must, if expansion is to retain proper balance, reserve large areas in numerous locations for public use and pleasure. Warnings as to the ultimate consequences of over-development were ignored, apparently in the belief that the amenities of the surrounding municipalities would suffice.

Fortunately for the people of Saanich they now have a reeve and council of wider vision and the courage to tackle a difficult situation which the council's predecessors could have averted by the application of forethought. There is in this an object lesson for all those inclined to view local and regional planning as a waste of time and money.

Where TCA Stands

ANY doubts as to TCA's position with respect to the Victoria-Vancouver-Seattle service are removed by the published text of Mr. McGregor's letter to the local junior chamber of commerce. It indicates quite clearly that TCA quickly seized the chance to retire from this franchise when PWA offered to take it over.

The president of TCA emphasizes that his company issued no challenge, but by his own admission it accepted one when PWA doubted the accuracy of TCA's operating figures, countering this by stating it would relinquish its licence to PWA if the air transport board approved. This was on the direct instruction of Mr. McGregor. The president rejects any question of reconsidering this stand, on the ground it has no alternative for its action "in the face of its alleged economic inefficiency." This seems an amazingly supine retreat before an adverse criticism, or it would be were TCA not obviously grasping at an excuse to give up the licence.

Mr. McGregor states specifically that TCA has offered to give up its Victoria route licence, subject to PWA receiving a licence. He makes it clear that a scheduled airline may not without permission abandon a route it is licensed to serve, however, so that the proposed transfer now rests at the discretion of the transport board. If the board refuses to grant PWA a licence TCA will have to carry on. This is a point not to be overlooked by those prepared to contest the issue before the air board.

The TCA president closes his letter by expressing thanks to the various organizations which have lauded the quality of TCA service and voiced a desire for its continuance. This appreciation however does not alter that fact that his company, as with the CPR and the steamship service, seems all too ready to bypass its responsibilities as far as this community and this region are concerned.

Interpreting the News

Two Berlins Contrasted

By PHIL NEWSOM
UPI Foreign News Editor

THE tough thing about the Berlin situation is that neither Soviet Russia nor the Western powers can afford to retreat very far. The Russians say they will turn over to their East German satellite controls for all means in and out of Berlin, including West Berlin, on May 27. Along with this, they demand that the 10,000 Western troops in Berlin be removed before that date and West Berlin made a "free" city within the Communist zone.

There has been no sign up to now that the Soviets have retreated from that position, first announced more than two months ago.

Secretary of State Dulles returned from his Western European conferences this week and announced that the Western powers also were determined there would be no retreat.

It is only necessary to visit the two sectors of Berlin to understand the opposing positions.

Prosperous West Berlin, free in every respect, including freedom of speech, presents the toughest problem Communist propaganda has had to face.

Here in a restricted space, along a boundary sometimes marked only by an imaginary line running down the centre of a city street, lie examples of the free world and the Communist world.

Last winter this correspondent visited the two Berlins, witnessing the prosperity of the West and the poverty of the East, seeing on the one side the smart restaurants, the smartly dressed people, the luxurious shops; and on the other the rubble, the thinly disguised emptiness of the Communist-controlled shops and the vast silence along what was once one of the busiest streets in Berlin.

To those who live behind the iron curtain but who still oppose the things for which Communism stands, West Berlin remains a hope.

It is one of the few escape routes left for those hoping to make their way from East to West. More than 20,000 East Berliners earn their daily bread in West Berlin, crossing and recrossing the line each day by elevated train and on each pay day, trading in their solid West German marks for inflated East German marks. Of those who cross the line daily, many elect to remain in the West. Last week more than 2,600 abandoned their homes and other possessions for a future, which however uncertain, still would be better than what they left.

'When Khrushchev Goes Off Drink . . . by Giles

Dinner is served, comrades.

Thinking Aloud

". . . of shoes—and ships—and sealing wax—of cabbages and kings."

By TOM TAYLOR

A man is a man for a' that but men are not of a common mould; they are, in short, not equal no matter what Abraham Lincoln said. Nor are they created equal in respect to quality, temper or given skills.

Proletarian Russia is finding this out, as an eastern paper notes almost with surprise. Nikita Khrushchev for one is unlikely to be surprised, in spite of Marxist theories, for he himself is an example of abililty making its way to the top.

The eastern journal points to the growth in Russia of varying classes. Gone is the revolutionary assumption that with the end of the nobility all shades of distinction would pass and everyone would be on the same footing. It was an illusion that could not last long.

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It disappeared in fact, as it was bound to do, when the first board of Soviet authority was set up. Authority must be clothed in its proper setting and that invites amenities necessary to give it visible substance.

Mr. Khrushchev could no more live in a peasant cottage, for instance, than could Mr. Diefenbaker live in a cheap one-room apartment. Not, at least, while they are directing their nation's affairs.

For lesser beings the situation is not dissimilar. The human urge is to rise, even if this is not possible for everyone because everyone does not enjoy the same talents. And it is a corollary of ability that it seeks, deservedly, a return commensurate with its contribution.

There is a tendency to deny this in our own land, in instances where merit either has no outlet or is deemed of small consideration beside the standards sought for all and sundry irrespective of performance. The desire to improve the lot of lower echelons is admirable but it is misdirected when it limits individual capacity.

Ability will win out, in any event, if not in one direction then in another, and it warrants recompense on the scale of its value.

It is here that incentive comes in, the spur to human endeavor that keeps society afloat. If there were no incentives of any kind there would be no progress and a nation would die of inertia.

Russia for one, as we know, has no intention of dying, and it is the incentives offered, in monetary and other returns, that are changing the face of the Soviet state. Repressions exist there that are anathema to our way of life, but human ambitions and desires have to be allowed expression nevertheless.

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Thus it comes about, as noted by the eastern paper, that varying degrees of emoluments and sustenance have created varying monetary classes. High government officials and important executives may be in one; scientists, doctors, artists, may be in another; a third might have technicians, skilled tradesmen and so on. Society has sorted itself out just as in other lands.

It could not be otherwise as education spread and Russia geared itself for progress and a preeminent place in the world. People must be given incentive and reward if there is to be advancement. A caste based on social snobbery is to be condemned, but differing classes there always will be, everywhere, simply because men are not born equal.

An exiled Russian noble once said of the bourgeois figure: "He will endure when aristocracies crack and proletariats crumble. In our own land we have never known him, but till we create him our land will never be a nation."

Perhaps Russia is on its way, with a saving grace for all the world.

Our Side of the Story

Secrecy a Foe of Democracy

By PROF. W. B. HARVEY

A CENTURY and a half ago the value and the power of the free press was eloquently stated by Sheridan:

"Give me the liberty of the Press and I will give the Minister a venal House of Peers . . . the full swing of the patronage of Office . . . the whole host of Ministerial influence . . . all the power that place can confer upon him to purchase up submission and to overawe resistance. And yet, armed with the liberty of the Press, I will go forth to meet him undismayed."

It was only after the establishment of the independence of the press that election machinery became reasonably effective, governments became responsible to the people, the franchise was extended, police respected the rights of citizens.

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In the 19th century governments affected the economy almost solely through long-run policies such as tariff protection. The material needed to debate such matters was as accessible to private citizens as to members of the cabinet. Freedom of the press was sufficient to ensure adequate discussion of public policy. The problem of getting the facts needed for making sensible, sound decisions scarcely existed.

Today, governments pay great attention to short-run problems such as fluctuations in employment, farm income, and foreign exchange rates. Now these short-run problems are not only inherently difficult and complicated, but cannot even be approached without the latest available statistics, and well-informed estimates about the future. For example, whether or not the government should take vigorous measures to combat unemployment depends not only on the amount of unemployment but to an even greater extent on the prospects for a pick-up in private employment.

If projects such as new mining ventures or new housing developments can be reasonably expected to take up the slack in employment in the near future, the correct course for the government would be to do nothing. If, however, the evidence shows that private employment is likely to decline further, the need for government action becomes urgent.

Even with the fullest possible information it is difficult for the editors, columnists and commentators who mold public opinion on short-run policies to arrive at sound conclusions about what should be done. But if the available information is confined to government departments, the public is as powerless to influence policy as if there were no free press.

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The government experts—the economists, statisticians and others who compile and make the estimates—are found in the government departments. The cabinet ministers naturally get the information first. They have a natural tendency to keep much of it to themselves. By releasing only the information that favors the policy the government has decided on, the ministers have a great and unfair advantage in any argument that may develop either in caucus or in Parliament.

It is because the cabinet has a practical monopoly of the latest statistics and estimates that we have been hearing talk of "cabinet dictatorship." And because private members are at a great disadvantage in arguing with a minister, many MPs of ability get a feeling of helplessness and uselessness that discourages them from standing for re-election.

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The importance of making all the statistics and estimates available to everybody has been brought out in a challenging book by James R. Wiggins, "Freedom or Secrecy?" This book shows that the demand for access to information is part of the never-ending struggle for freedom of the press.

Mr. Wiggins reviews the struggle for freedom of the press in Britain and the United States and shows that it has been largely a struggle to strip the veil of secrecy from the actions of governments.

He points out that parliamentary government in Britain began with a very understandable objection to any reporting of debates in Parliament. When Parliament was trying to curb Charles I's attempts to rule as an absolue monarch, the MPs naturally did not want their remarks reported to the King. They could present a resolution of the House of Commons with relative safety; the King did not feel strong enough to punish the whole House, but to let the King know what individual members said might have been distinctly unsafe. Unfortunately, Parliament continued to oppose the reporting of its debates long after it had become the unchallenged ruler of the country.

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The struggle for the right to publish reports of the debates in Parliament was the decisive battle in the struggle for a free press but the ending of secret trials — making the courts open to public scrutiny — marked a great step towards freeing the individual from unjust treatment by arbitrary governments.

The present need is for publicity of the information necessary for the determination of day-to-day policy. Some information, notably in wartime, must be kept secret. And we probably have to trust the judgment of the government as to what information it withholds. But as Mr. Wiggins puts it: "The arguments for secrecy may be good arguments which, in a world that is menaced by communist imperialism we cannot altogether refute. They are, nevertheless, arguments for less freedom."

The Packsack

By GREGORY CLARK

THERE is such beauty within the gift of human expression that it is hard to understand how much downright ugliness is being enjoyed by what appears to be a very large proportion of those who listen to popular music, vocal and instrumental, at the present time.

It may be, of course, that the overwhelming majority of the public is simply tone deaf. No surveys have ever been made, as far as I know, of the perceptive qualifications of the public as regards sound such as have been undertaken, in a small way, as regards color. All we know about the ratio of color blindness per thousand of population comes from tests required for jobs that demand color perception.

It could be that 90 per cent of us are tone deaf.

How else can we account for the popularity of music much of which has the aesthetic status of a toad, a slippery salamander or a gnarled old boot?

Thank goodness some beauty sneaks through. And thank goodness Canada has contributed to the larger music sources south of the border two classic voices that command beauty even from the orchestras chosen to accompany them. They are Dorothy Collins and Giselle MacKenzie. They are faithful to the ancient beauty of the human voice, the dawn of which was in the lullaby, or in the choirs of angels which, having said good night, sweet prince, sang him to his rest.

Are We Unappreciative?

The Impoverished Arts

(From the Ottawa Journal)

THE United Kingdom in its tight little space with heirlooms of wealth and conquest preserved for all to see has been far kinder to the arts than Canada. Our vast acres, our newness, our inevitable concern with the plow and the development of these resources we have heard so much about for so long have militated against not only the collection of art but the consciousness of the arts; to appreciate art one must be exposed to it and Canadian opportunities have been lamentably few.

So it is unjust to argue, as some do, that Canada should attempt to keep up with the artistic Joneses, especially the United Kingdom.

That said, the Canadian contribution to the arts, by Dominion, provincial and municipal governments, remains miserably small.

In London the other day the House of Commons was told it was proposed to increase the purchase grants to national museums and galleries by 2½ times to £335,000. Direct government expenditures on the arts will be nearly £7,000,000 this year.

That £7,000,000 will be from a total national expenditure ranging around £4,500,000,0000 and of course it will not all be for paintings but will cover such items as assistance to the Covent Garden opera to a maximum of £500,000 a year.

The main estimates for the National Art Gallery in Canada for 1958-59 total $658,600, including a modest $100,000 for the purchase of new works. To that, under the heading of "arts," can be added certain expenditures of the Canada Council financed by the government and other grants in various categories. But if the total Canadian national contribution to the arts exceeds $3,000,000 annually we would be surprised.

So it can be worked out that the United Kingdom spends £1 in £600 on the arts and Canada spends $1 in $2,000. While we may not be a notably art conscious nation, we are hardly as unappreciative or as unwilling to learn as all that.

Dreary Creed

SOCIALISM is a dismal creed, and its practitioners are expert at taking the joy out of life. Proof of this is found in a directive issued by the East German communist regime telling dancing teachers to "develop and teach dance steps which correspond with the socialist outlook."

Freedom to dance, without instructions from the state, is a simple pleasure, but even this small freedom must be regimented behind the Iron Curtain so that dancing may be "harmonized in the socialist manner."

What many who tolerate some measure of socialism in the name of expediency forget is that its advocates by no means confine their efforts to economic doctrine. Their ultimate objective is absolute control over the lives of every citizen, so that art, literature, music and even sport cease to be pleasures, but exist only to serve the grim ends of power-hungry authoritarians.

—FORT ERIE LETTER-REVIEW.